Meat Goat Grades

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

E. Bruce Shankle II

What is a goat "GRADE"??

GRADE: a define category of standards based on visual appraisal and measurable carcass characteristics

USDA Live Goat Grades

• Selection No. 1

• Selection No. 2

• Selection No. 3

Effective Date: October 2001

Selection No. 1

Selection No. 1 live goat have a superior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be thickly muscled throughout the body as indicated by a pronounced (bulging) outside leg, a full (rounded) loin, and a moderately thick outside shoulder.



Selection 1
Carcass
44 lbs.

Selection 1 88 lbs.

50.0% Yield



Selection No. 2

Selection No. 2 live goats have an average meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be moderately muscled throughout the body as indicated by a slightly thick and a slightly pronounced outside leg, a slightly full loin, and a slightly thick to slightly thin outside shoulder.



Selection 2
Carcass
37 lbs.

Selection 2 79 lbs.

Yield 46.8%



Selection No. 3

Selection No. 3 live goats have an inferior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. The legs, back and shoulders are narrow in relation with its length and they have a very angular and sunken appearance





Selection 3 50 lbs.

Yield 40%

Selection 3
Carcass
20 lbs.

Terminology of Meat Goats

Class (Sex):

Buck: intact (not castrated) male caprine.

<u>Doe</u>: female caprine

Wether: castrated male caprine before developing secondary physical

characteristics of a buck (steer)

Age (Maturity):

Kid: has all baby teeth, 14 months old or less

Yearling: has cut its first pair of permanent incisor teeth, but not the second

pair, 14 to 24 months years old.

Goat: adult caprine, has cut its second pair (or more) of permanent

incisor teeth. More than 24 months old.

Breed: (Meat or Dairy)

Dairy and dairy crosses
Boer and Boer Crosses
Brush, Spanish, Texas, etc.

Pygmy

- Superior meat type conformation, thick leg, thick and rounded loin, moderately thick shoulder.
- Thickly muscled, very good overall health, indications of very high level of nutrition.



Meat Breed: Boer X Brush cross

- Average meat type conformation and moderate finish. Slightly thick leg, slightly full loin, slightly thin shoulder.
- At least slightly thick muscling, overall good health and indications of adequate nutrition.
- Meat breed cross.



- Inferior meat type conformation. Legs, back, loin are narrow in relation with its length and they have a very angular and sunken appearance.
- Exhibit symptoms of poor management, lack of nutrition, lack of parasite control.
- Dairy breed cross



Selection 1 Goats



No. 1 Doe

No. 1 Buck



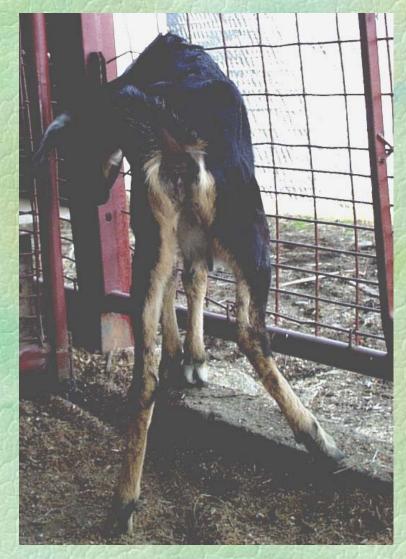
Selection 2 Goats



No. 2 Doe

No.2 Doe

Selection 3 goats



No. 3 Doe

No. 3 Doe







Adult Bucks

Note: Dark Carcass



No. 1 Yearling 95 lbs.

No. 1 Carcass 45.5 lbs.

48% Yield



No. 2 Doe 75 lbs.

Yield 43.3%



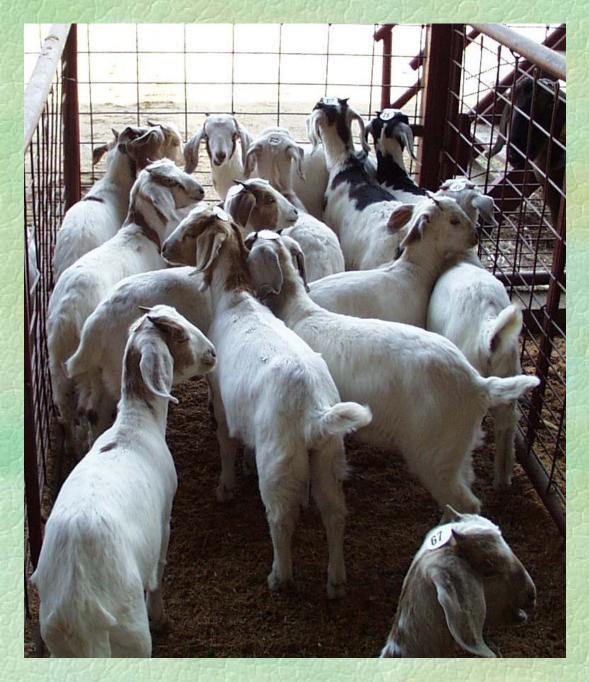
No. 2 Carcass 32.5 lbs.



No. 1 / No. 2

No.2 / No. 1





Boer cross buck kids

40 - 50 lbs.



Selection 1 Yearling Does 80 - 100 lbs.



Selection 2 Yearling Does

Selection 2
Does (Adults)









Selection No. 3

Selection No. 2

Selection No. 1



